

WRITTEN COMMENTS
SUBMITTED TO
LAKE MACBRIDE INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 3, 2011

Ver Heul, Ann [LEGIS]

From: milder813@mchsi.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2011 2:34 PM
To: Ver Heul, Ann [LEGIS]
Subject: Lake Macbride

Ann,

I heard that you may entertain comments on the Lake Macbride motor restriction issue. My wife and I frequent the lake in our small fishing boat. It has a motor too large to be used in the summer months. This is our main "fun" activity that we do when the weather is nice. The boat, though inexpensive to some, was a large investment for us. We cannot afford a smaller motor for our boat and rigging it would not really work well with our boat design. We are very restricted on how we can use the lake in the prime fishing season due to the motor restriction. This is simply not right. What makes this so frustrating is the fact that this restriction is only enforced part of the time. The no wake season (the colder months) seems to work fine for everyone and does not contribute to erosion of the bank. It seems to me that a state owned lake should be available for everyones use ALL of the time. I feel this motor restriction is set up and backed by the sailing clubs so they will have more space when they want to be out on the water. I also find the pontoon and john boats who use a 9.9 or smaller motor at full speed, a huge problem. The speeds are not monitored and they do not follow the no wake rules. They must feel since they have a "qualifying sized" motor that they can run it wide open.

This has forced us to fish elsewhere. Fishing elsewhere means spending money elsewhere. This is a shame that we can't contribute to local businesses in the same county in which we live. Coralville Reservoir is not an option due to the recreational boaters flying around and creating huge wakes. We have found ourselves traveling to Wapello, Sugema, Iowa, Pleasant Creek, etc. to find places to fish. These lakes seem to have no problems with the simple No Wake rule. Why is it such an issue at Macbride? Please helps us get this issue out there.

Thanks,

Jon Milder
(319) 631-2102
milder813@mchsi.com

Ver Heul, Ann [LEGIS]

From: bkbarry@southslope.net
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2011 12:55 PM
To: Ver Heul, Ann [LEGIS]
Subject: Lake MacBride

Ann, I am a resident of Cottage Reserve on Lake MacBride. I am totally against lifting motor restrictions on the Lake. The lake is not wide enough for large motors. We have many, many folks who canoe, sail, kayak, paddle boat and canoe safely out here. To have the large motors would be quite dangerous. The Lake is not patrolled as it should be but not because the DNR staff for the lake are lazy. They are just the opposite, but due to budget cuts they are unable to be everywhere at one particular time.

I hope our voices will be heard. This is a serious situation and I don't want to see large motored boats and or jet skis causing a collision with any watercraft.

Thank you for your time.

Kathy Barry
1934 Buresh Pt. Rd. N.E.
Solon, Iowa 52333

Ver Heul, Ann [LEGIS]

From: Abernathey <1971gtx@mchsi.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2011 9:10 AM
To: Ver Heul, Ann [LEGIS]
Subject: Re: Lake McBride motor limits

To all who are involved in the Lake McBride HP discussion,

I am a home owner on Lake McBride and would like to add my voice to the discussion about the motor limits on our lake. You have heard and will hear all of our arguments for the 10 hp limit but I want to reiterate a few. It just takes a moment of your time to close your eyes, sit and visualize yourself on a bike riding on a trail (one that general tax money all paid for) with a posted limit of 10 MPH enjoying the peace and quiet of the wind rushing past your ears and the birds singing in the trees, a squirrel hopping from one branch to the other, then - from behind, you are assaulted with the sound and fury of a dirt bike roaring up behind you, the rider "enjoying" the same scenery at his own speed of 30 MPH because "who's out here to stop me" - he bursts past you, nearly knocking you off your bike and polluting the silence you so reverently appreciated for the next 5 minutes as his engine continues to whine all the way up the trail, leaving the stench of exhaust for you and all creatures to "enjoy". Change the bicycle to a kayak and the dirt bike to a large motored boat and this same scenario will, without any doubt, play itself out on Lake McBride over and over again if the 10 HP motor limit is lifted. If the budget trend were such that the state was ADDING to the personnel who regulate compliance on the lakes (we all know this will not be the case), this might be a slightly different conversation **but** human nature dictates that limits will be exceeded whenever possible. *Just tell me that you **NEVER** go over the speed limit when you are driving and I will back off that last statement!!* This summer, while kayaking, we have enjoyed seeing otters playfully romping along the shoreline, a Greater Yellowleg pecking at minnows in the shallows of the water's edge, and a Great Blue Heron that routinely wades back in one of the inlets on the south side of the lake. The noise and wake of those larger engines would scare off any of these gentle creatures and the integrity of this unique ecosystem would be lost to the demands of a few who cannot see beyond their 150 hp Johnsons. They have **ALL** the other lakes. Thank you for your time and consideration! Sincerely, Sorina Abernathey

Ver Heul, Ann [LEGIS]

From: dafrantz@mchsi.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2011 1:58 PM
To: Ver Heul, Ann [LEGIS]
Cc: Waters, Steve [DNR]
Subject: Lake Macbride Legislative Committee Meeting Comments

Ann,

I, as a fisherman, feel that we fisherman with larger boats are being discriminated against by the motor restriction rules on Lake Macbride. First, by boat is not set up for installing a smaller motor that will meet the size regulation for Lake Macbride. Second, even if I could install a smaller motor on my boat the extra expense would cost me \$1000.00 or more. As long as Lake Macbride has either a no wake or 5 MPH speed limit established there should be no problem with allowing any size boat with any size motor to use the lake. In fact it is that way in the early spring and the late fall and it works just fine. My question is why can't it work the same way the rest of the year?

I've often heard the opposition say the boats with bigger motor will run fast and make wakes. If boats with bigger motors can obey the rules in the early spring and late fall why do those opposed to the rule change think that all of a sudden we are going to break the rules?

In addition to discriminating against fisherman this motor restriction rule is costing local businesses because of lost revenue. A DNR friend of mine told me that the average angler spends \$23.00 each trip they go out fishing. This money is spent on boat and vehicle fuel, food and drink for in the boat, bait and tackle etc. I also on occasion will stop at a local restaurant for a sandwich or some ice cream on the way home. As you can see the motor restriction creates lots of lost revenue from May 20 through September 7 from boat owners who have too large of motor to get on Lake Macbride.

Thanks,

David Frantz
1320 Rochester Ave.
Iowa City, Iowa
President, Rod Benders Bass Club

Ver Heul, Ann [LEGIS]

From: mary <mailmanmary@netins.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2011 10:10 AM
To: Ver Heul, Ann [LEGIS]
Subject: Re: Lake McBride Interim Study Committee Tentative Agenda

I am asking to Lake MacBride Interim Study Committee to lift the motor restriction ban. As an avid fisherman, I would like to be able to use my boat and motor at Lake MacBride at a no wake speed year round. There is no difference between the day before Memorial Day and the day after in which this ban is currently in effect. If I wanted to go fast, I would use Coralville Lake, but I don't. I want to peacefully and safely use Lake MacBride, which I am helping fund through my fishing license and boat registration. There is no reason to have the motor ban usage. No wake is no wake, and the time of year does not make a difference.

Because of this ban, local businesses have lost out on a lot of revenue. My husband is in a multi species fishing club, and because of this ban, during the summer they have to go up to the Mississippi for their tournaments. People want to fish local and want to support their local businesses.

The debate has been that you can always go get another smaller motor. Who has the money for that. A good example is my retired parents. On a fixed income, do you think they have the money to get another motor? Do you really think they want to go fish Coralville on a busy weekend and get thrown around in the boat. NO, they want to fish Lake MacBride, which is one of our best local fisheries. And they want to do this because it is safe. How many other families do you think would like to spend a relaxing day on the water, but they can't because their motor is too big?

None of us are out to turn Lake MacBride into Coralville Reservoir, we want to be able to fish what is rightfully ours to fish at anytime of the year at a no wake speed. Palo Lake has it, so there shouldn't be a problem.

Thank you,

Mary Benion
50 Dale Lee Dr
Palo, Iowa 52324
319-350-9570

Ver Heul, Ann [LEGIS]

Subject: FW: Lake MaBride motor rule changes

-----Original Message-----

From: carpenter35 [mailto:carpenter35@mchsi.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2011 3:12 PM

To: Ver Heul, Ann [LEGIS]

Subject: Lake MaBride motor rule changes

I support the change to the Lake MacBride motor rules currently in place on the lake.

Already passed by the house and last known in the senate as SF 54.

The DNR's mission:

To conserve and enhance our natural resources in cooperation with individuals and organizations to improve the quality of life for Iowans and ensure a legacy for future generations.

There have been many letters about preserving the quiet atmosphere of Lake MacBride.

I am allowed to be on the lake with my chosen boat and motor (greater than 10 horsepower) from Labor Day to Memorial Day, operated at no wake. I have done this hundreds of times without violating that rule. My primary motivation to support the change to full-year no wake is to give me this access so that I may enjoy the fishing, observe the wildlife and enjoy the lake peacefully.

I will do so with my son and his twin boys (born in April) and my daughter and her son. We will teach my grandsons about nature, boats, fishing, safety and respect for others. I am confident this sharing will contribute to their character and help them to not be a burden to society as adults. Our primary process in fishing is called, "Catch and Release" to help sustain the resource.

I also believe this should be allowed since this is a state park/lake that was funded, is maintained, and recently was improved with another expenditure of \$2.4 million of our taxes.

There is no reason to continue the current practice of effectively providing a private lake for use by a small select group(s).

Joseph Carpenter

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Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

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